

sixty-seven out of seventy cases digitalis was the only medicine used, and sixty-six of these patients recovered. I do not mean that these are the exact numbers of those treated; I am certain as to the death, but I may have had more recoveries. I am well within bounds in saying seventy cases in twelve years, and that all of them were well-marked cases of delirium tremens. Slight cases of nervous derangement after drinking I have seen in great numbers; but I speak here only of such cases as required active treatment. My previous experience of the results of the treatment by opium, or some of its preparations, by antispasmodics, etc., had certainly been much less successful; the proportion of deaths was larger, and the recovery much less rapid. Again; I have treated more than one patient successfully by digitalis, who, in subsequent attacks elsewhere, has been treated by opium and died; and in many of the cases in which I have used digitalis successfully, opium had been previously given without any good effect."

Mr. J. was led to adopt this practice from observing the effects of a large dose of the medicine *given by mistake* to a patient, whose condition seemed desperate, and who recovered under effects of the article.

Dr. T. HERBERT BAKER, in a communication to the *Med. Times and Gaz.* (Oct. 20, 1860), says that his "experiments point to the fact that the tincture of digitalis, of all the forms of the drug, possesses the lowest degree of toxic power; and there can be no doubt that the quantity of tincture which may be given without destroying life is much greater than is usually imagined. Indeed, I suspect that it will yet be found that in some morbid conditions of the system the tincture of digitalis may be advantageously administered in still larger doses than have been recommended and given by Dr. A. T. Thomson, Mr. King, Dr. Clutterbuck, Mr. Jones, and others. Whether the comparative harmlessness of the tincture arises from the variable quantity of digitalis in the alcoholic solution, or whether the alcohol of the tincture somewhat modifies the action of the digitalis, is yet to be determined. Dr. Ballard's remark on digitalis as a counterpoison suggests to my mind that in the tincture we may possibly be administering at once the bane and the antidote."

Mr. WM. CARR, in a letter to the same journal, states that he has used the tincture of digitalis in large doses, as recommended by Mr. Jones, since 1858, and with the best results. "In no case," he says, "has it failed to produce relief to all the urgent symptoms—tremors, delusions, and insomnia."

"In some cases," he adds, "where the nervous system has been undermined to the extreme by lengthened indulgence, I have combined chloric ether, in doses of thirty minims, giving such every half hour, with three drachms of the tincture of digitalis, repeating the remedies until two ounces of the latter had been taken, when I have ceased for twenty-four hours; after which I have repeated the medicine in less full doses, measuring the quantities needed by the condition of my patient, the amount of sleep obtained, the degree of tranquillity enjoyed, and the state of pulse, quiet or tremulous."

11. *Treatment of Epilepsy—Belladonna—the Ligature—the Actual Cautey.*—Dr. BROWN-SÉQUARD generally commences the treatment of epilepsy by belladonna. The usual dose of this remedy for an adult is one-quarter of a grain twice a day in pill or mixture. It is very rarely indeed seen to produce any of its specific effects, as dilatation of the pupil, in cases of epilepsy. At our last visit one patient came who complained of dimness of vision, and whose pupils were evidently dilated by the drug; but this was the exception, proving the rule, as the case was not one of epilepsy or any other convulsive disorder.

In the cases in which there appear to be a tendency in the fits to appear at regular intervals, for instance once a fortnight, Dr. Brown-Séquad prescribes quinia in large doses, *e. g.*, five, ten, and even fifteen grains, to be given at intervals, shortly before the fit is expected. By this means the fit is frequently prevented, and the patient goes on to the next, or even to a longer period. In reference to these large doses of quinia, it is well known that some temporary deafness will often follow, and curiously enough, Dr. Brown-Séquad states that there is a kind of deafness which the administration of this remedy in large doses will cure.

Another therapeutical means in epilepsy is the ligature, in cases in which the aura epileptica, arising from one of the limbs, is present. Dr. Brown-Séquard has two patients, both girls, about the age of nine years, in the hospital, in whom the fits are frequently stopped in this way. The ligature is kept constantly on the arm; when the child feels the warning, the nurse of the ward tightens the bandage, and the fit is prevented. The success in these cases has been very great, and we shall, shortly, by the courtesy of Mr. Smith, the house surgeon, be enabled to place their details before our readers. It is of great consequence to have the ligature in readiness, so that it may be tightened at once. Grasping the limb tightly will do in the absence of proper means, but it is much better to keep a bandage or folded handkerchief tied on the arm ready to be tightened. Dr. Brown-Séquard has invented an apparatus to encircle the arm, and to tighten by a screw, in order that the pressure may be quickly applied.

Dr. Brown-Séquard frequently uses the actual cautery locally in a variety of nervous affections. In epilepsy, patients frequently complain of either a pain or a sensation proceeding from some part of the body. A woman, aged 20, had had fits for thirteen years; they invariably commenced with pain in the left side, just below the mamma. Dr. Brown-Séquard applied the cautery to this part in two or three places. The relief was most marked. It had not prevented the fits altogether, but it had reduced their number very considerably. Instead of having them every other day, she had them only once a week. The cauterizing iron is heated to a white heat, and is then applied suddenly to the part once or twice. It appears to cause but trifling pain, and the patients do not seem at all to dread its repetition.—*Med. Times & Gaz.*, Oct. 27, 1860.

12. *Diabetes treated by Hot-Air Baths.*—Mr. G. M. SWINHOE relates (*British Med. Journ.*, Nov. 3, 1860) the following case:—

"W. W., a mechanic, a married man, aged 40, applied to me in November last, 1859, with all the symptoms of diabetes, viz., general debility, extreme aching pain in the loins, dry tongue, great thirst, voracious appetite, constipation, dry cough, etc. The specific gravity of his urine (of which he passed from nine to twelve quarts in the twenty-four hours) was 1040; it contained plenty of sugar. His previous history was that of a moderate man, and for the last two years he had been a teetotaler. His work as a spring-maker subjected him to extreme and frequent changes of temperature. I prescribed iron and opium, and regulated the diet so as to exclude all articles containing sugar as much as possible. Under this treatment, he improved, and continued at his work until the end of the following April, when, feeling himself much better, he could not resist the temptation of a dish of potatoes, of which he freely partook, and came to me as bad as ever. I now added to my former treatment vapour baths; but these produced so much exhaustion, that I was obliged to discontinue them, and he to give up work. I now determined to try the hot-air baths, and sent him to London for the purpose. From these he derived such benefit that he was soon able to resume his work; and, having built a bath at the back of his cottage, he has been able to take them regularly, and to give up medicine for the last three or four months. He is now as strong as ever he was in his life; and, notwithstanding a total disregard of all diet regulations, his urine is now scanty, with a specific gravity of 1018, and has lost its sugar."

13. *Diabetes.*—We have already noticed (No. for Jan. 1860, p. 229) the researches of Dr. Griesinger relative to diabetes, and we shall now give some further particulars. Dr. G. has had occasion to treat nine cases of diabetes, two of which were of the variety insipidus. Eight of the cases proved fatal, and in all *post-mortem* examinations were obtained. In order to draw out as complete a history as possible of the disease Dr. G. has collected, from various sources, 217 sufficiently detailed cases; his conclusions are accordingly based upon 225 observations.

Directing attention, in the first place, to the causes of diabetes, Dr. Griesinger narrates two cases where there might be a suspicion that the disease had been produced by the excessive use of sugar, or of saccharine aliment. A diet too exclusively vegetable, and especially if containing much starchy matter, exer-